

Application No. 10/786,329
Amendment dated May 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 21, 2006

Docket No.: 20513-00590-US1

REMARKS

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. In an effort to expedite the prosecution, a substitute Abstract is provided; and Claims 21 and 25 have been amended as required by the Examiner.

Claims 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Regarding the first enablement objection raised by the Examiner (why means for introducing the working means into the primary circuit are required, considering that the working means is located inside the pipe), claim 25 has been amended to clarify the working means as working from within the pipe along the entire length of the interior surface of the primary pipe.

Regarding the second objection (lack of enabling disclosure of the term "selectively" in the last feature of claim 25), the claim has been amended to delete the word "selectively". The same idea remains expressed in the expression "through one of first and second components of primary circuit".

Regarding the third enablement objection raised by the Examiner (claim 21 implies a rewelding of the already welded end part of the new replacement section), the claim has been amended to clarify the fact the welded end part of the new replacement section is a bevel welded part. It should be noted that the specification discloses that the welding of the end part of the new replacement section is carried out in two steps. It is described in paragraph [0120] that the two ends of the replacement section are first welded to a thickness corresponding to a fraction of a total thickness of the primary pipe, by partial filling of the narrow bevels with weld metal. Then, as explained in paragraphs [0150] and [0155], the filing of the weld bevels is completed, in a second step. The first welding operation is carried out from the outside of the primary pipe and is only partial (partial filling in paragraph [0155]). The second welding step is carried out from inside the pipe. As explained in paragraph 158, carrying out the welding operation in two steps, first from outside of the pipe and then from inside the pipe make it possible to ensure that the

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the inner parts of the welds are of perfect quality free of defects on the surface which come into contact with the primary water.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20513-00590-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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